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HUNGARIAN DECREE STRESSES QUALITY OF MANUFACTURED GOODS

Szabad Nep,
Budapest, 1 Aug 1953

The Presidential Council recently issued a decree aimed at controlling the quality of industrial products.

The decree makes the enterprise director primarily responsible for the quality of products. However, the chief engineers, shop foremen, and the workers may be held responsible also. The decree states that workers who turn out products of consistently high quality shall receive a bonus; at the same time, the decree legalizes and establishes a scale of wage deductions for faulty goods.

The new decree protects the purchaser by requiring the manufacturer to include a quality guarantee for all major orders. If the product does not conform to the guarantee, the purchaser may demand the repair of the faulty item, ask for a rebate in the case of minor defects, or reject goods found to be entirely unsatisfactory. The purchasing enterprise may further demand a penalty for unsatisfactory products; if the penalty fails to cover the losses, the enterprise is entitled to full damages.

During the past few years when there was a prolonged shortage of certain consumer goods, customers had cause for dissatisfaction when large spots appeared on a dress a few days after purchase, razor blades were unusable, and shoes fell apart. However, the faulty goods were difficult or impossible to exchange, and only the most persistent customers succeeded in obtaining redress for their grievances.

Now, according to the new decree, the selling enterprise or store is responsible to the consumer for the quality of the goods purchased, unless such goods are sold expressly as "seconds." This means that the purchaser may demand exchange, repair, or discount for goods found faulty after purchase.

The decree makes it possible to prosecute enterprise managers who disregard the regulations on quality. Manufacturing and selling enterprises are responsible for the quality of small items, as well as larger, more expensive items.

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